

Progress Report for HB 2800 – Interstate 5 Bridge Replacement Project

Second quarter 2014 (4/1/14 to 6/30/14)

The following information is submitted by the Oregon Department of Transportation following Section 21 of HB 2800, concerning the Interstate Bridge Replacement Project:

SECTION 21. Each calendar quarter, the Department of Transportation shall prepare and submit a report on the progress of the Interstate 5 bridge replacement project described in Section 2 of this 2013 Act to the Legislative Assembly as provided in ORS 192.245 or, if the report is submitted during the interim between sessions of the Legislative Assembly, to the appropriate interim committees related to transportation.

Information in this progress report addresses project close down activity during the period April 1 through June 30, 2014. No additional work activities will be completed for this project and additional progress reports are not anticipated.

Project closeout

On March 7, the Oregon Legislature adjourned without reinstating construction funds for the CRC I-5 Bridge Replacement project. As identified in Governor Kitzhaber's January 27, 2014 letter to legislative leadership, the project was to begin the process of orderly archival and closeout if it did not receive state funding. The project ceased all work and vacated its office space by May 31, 2014.

The project was closed in a systematic, retrievable manner in order to adequately preserve the decade of research, environmental reviews, permitting documentation, community involvement, detailed engineering work, financial analysis and procurement plans for potential future use. Work products have been archived according to Oregon record retention requirements. Expenditures were reduced immediately; further design and deliverable development did not occur.

Legislative requirements

Enrolled HB 2800 includes provisions that must have been met in order for the I-5 bridge replacement project to move forward to construction. One of those provisions was that the State of Washington must have committed funds to the project by September 30, 2013. Since that action did not occur, the project did not advance to construction; therefore, neither the plan nor the study and recommendations described below could be completed.

Section 18 requires the Oregon Department of Transportation to submit a plan to interim legislative committees on transportation for awarding public contracts in connection with the I-5 bridge replacement project that would maximize economic development opportunities for small businesses and seek to ensure non-discrimination and fair competition for disadvantaged business enterprises. Prior to the project close down, procurement plans were being developed to provide opportunities for small and disadvantaged business enterprises. Procurement planning stopped once the close down was announced; therefore a plan was not submitted to the legislative committees on transportation.

Section 19 of the law further requires the Oregon Transportation Commission to conduct studies and develop recommendations around establishing a fund to address air quality and public health concerns that may impact adjacent communities by construction of the replacement Interstate 5 bridge. The study and recommendations were to include locations to stage construction materials and strategies to address potential traffic diversion onto I-205, and were to be reported to interim legislative committees by September 2014. Due to the project close down, this work was not completed.